



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Taggart, et al.

Examiner: Soubra, I.

Serial No.: 09/354,478

Art Unit: 1744

Filing Date: 07/15/99

Docket No.: STEU-2661

Title: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING CONTAINER INTERIOR
STERILIZATION IN AN ASEPTIC PROCESSING APPARATUS**

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
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AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 6, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Amended 4 Times) Apparatus comprising:

a first supply source of sterile air;

a supply source of sterilant, wherein the supply source of sterilant includes a spoon *dipper apparatus*;

an atomizing system producing an atomized sterilant from the mixing of the sterile air from the first supply source of sterile air with the sterilant;

a second supply source of a hot sterile air for providing the hot sterile air to the atomized